

**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

The OSCILLATOR

JANUARY 2009

Issue 2009:01
Our 31st Year

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

A Tale of Two Elmers

In December's Oscillator, a competition between Michael Fuller K7CIE and Ron O'Connor KD7VIK involving the ARRL DX Century Club Award was reported (QSL cards confirming QSOs with 100 different countries). This is Amateur Radio's premier accomplishment. The "winner" of this contest will be toasted with Champaign provided by the "loser."

This competition began in October 2006. It began with Ron (contesting enthusiast and OTVARC trustee) inviting Michael to work a DX contest and mentoring ("Elmering") him one-on-one. This introduced Michael, licensed less than a year at the time, into the wonderful world of DX chasing. Prior to this time, Mike as he is called on the air, managed to work a few foreign countries, but was primarily a CW only "rag chewer."

On this October day, Ron showed Mike how to: operate SSB; use "search and pounce" techniques for DX; and, taught him the ins-and-outs of successfully mailing QSL cards to foreign countries. On this single day, Mike worked more DX in one day than he had in the year before. Weeks later those QSL cards from exotic foreign countries started flowing in. Mike was hooked.

This "Elmering" resulted in a growing friendship. The learning has not been one-way from Ron to Mike. It came around when Mike, who worked with computers before retirement, showed Ron many new aspects of computerized logbooks, propagation forecasters, rig and computer interfaces (transceiver and computer talking to each other) and amplifier operation.

Continued on Page 5

CLUB MEETING

Wednesday,
January 14th

Our first club meeting of 2009 will be held at The Peppermill Restaurant, 17455 SW Farmington Road in Beaverton on Wednesday, January 14th. Come at 6:00 PM and order off the menu. Our Club Meeting begins at 7:00 PM. We will install our 2009 Board during this meeting.

Family members and friends are welcome to come with you. Guests are always welcome and an amateur radio license is not required.

Check out our web site: www.otvarc.org for more information.

2009 Board Elected

The club has selected its 2009 Board of Directors. 2009 Officers are: Robert Crocker WN7O, president; Don Baldwin AA2V, vice president; Jennifer Roberson K7JLF, secretary; and, Alvin Carlson KB7VHI, treasurer. Both Don and Jennifer are new to the board this year. Re-elected as Trustees are: Wes Allen K7WWG and Joel Simmons AD7IS. Continuing Trustees are: JD Fort K7JDF; Phil Kane K2ASP; and, Ron O'Connor KD7VIK.

We had competitive elections for president and trustee this year. Our thanks to Pat Roberson N7PAT and Karl Anderson NM7N for running for president and trustee respectively. Both are active members and will continue to contribute to a strong club.

No board can lead by itself. The volunteers who accept appointment to specific roles give strength and purpose to our efforts. Be prepared to accept appointment as our president approaches you to serve in specific ways.

ABOUT GROWING OLDER...

[This story is either for the one-third of our members who are age 70 or older — or its for the two-thirds who are thinking about the process of getting older.]

First ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Second ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Third ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

Fourth ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

Fifth ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

Sixth ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

Seventh ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Eighth ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

Ninth ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Tenth ~ Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

And finally ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

Thanks to Will Rogers

OTVARC ADDRESS:
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Hillsboro OR 97124-6258
otvarc@gmail.com

YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS NEEDED

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is strong and growing. A reason for that strength and growth is the large number of members who regularly give their time and energy to club projects and activities. Thank you.

Its time to ask the membership for recommendations in several areas. Don Baldwin AA2V would like to know what kinds of programs you enjoy (with specific suggestions where possible). Everett Curry W6ABM would like your articles and story ideas for our monthly journal, The OSCILLATOR, and for our Internet site: www.otvarc.org.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS BUSY

In November and December we've had a pretty high turnout. November 1st saw nineteen applicants with a total of twenty-five exam elements administered. Four Technician and thirteen General licenses, plus one Extra Class license were earned. One applicant, who we hope to see again for another try, gets a chance to study some more. On December 6th we gave twenty-five exam elements to a total of fifteen applicants. There were eight Technician, four General, and three Extra licenses earned.

Thanks to VEs Tony K7AKM, Kathleen KE7EVV, Rich KD7GIE, Jim WD7H, Len W7JLX, Will N7THL, and Phil WA7URV.

[See Special Feature on VEs on Page 5]

LUNCH BUNCH

Join us for LUNCH BUNCH
Saturday, January 24, 2009
1:30 pm

Biggatti's
2905 SW Cedar Hills Blvd.
Beaverton.Or
Phone 503-626-1400

Information?
Linda KC7YTD
503.246.8879

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

The International Year of Astronomy begins on January 1st. In Canada, that means a Special Prefix Callsign may be used beginning at 0000 UTC and ending February 27th at 23:59 UTC.

All Canadian Amateurs are encouraged to use the special prefix to celebrate Galileo Galilei's first look through an optical instrument towards the heavens.

The Special Prefix are
VE changes to CG
VA changes to CF
VO changes to CH
VY changes to CI

The official kickoff date for International Year of Astronomy is January 10th. On that date many astronomy clubs across Canada and around the world will be participating in local astronomical activities.

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.



SAM SENIOR SK

SAM SENIOR N7KJN SK

Born October 22, 1929 - Died July 30, 2008

Sam was a member of the Oregon Fencing Alliance, a member of the Northwest Fencing Center, mountain climber and loved Formula 1 racing.

VE, from Page 5

The last two years have been running an average of seventeen but two factors account for it: The rule change of 2007, and a very large class that was taught to LDS church members this year. I expect it to go back to an average of twelve or so in 2009. We'll see.

In addition to regular sessions we held nine *Sea-Pac* sessions averaging twenty-five applicants and eleven special sessions which were held for various class groups, invalids, and applicants needing alternate scheduling or accommodation.

Grand totals for the whole program through November 2008 are:

Sessions: 97 ranging from 1 to 44 applicants
Applicants: 1,206 persons (count once per session)
Exams: 1,496 total (136 code, 1360 written)
Passed: 1,109 exams (81 code, 1028 written)
Licenses Applied for: 899 total
Initial Licenses: 501 applied for
Volunteer Examiners: 61 persons with service ranging from 1 to 47 sessions.

We appreciate the support from OTVARC members – many of our examiners are members. We thank Sharon Kennedy AC7UK, Hillsboro Emergency Manager, for ensuring the availability of the conference room at Ronler Acres.

73,
Carl WS7L
OTVARC VE Coordinator

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HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS**14 February 2009****HAMFAIR****Salem Repeater Association****Polk County Fairgrounds****Rickreall, Oregon****Talk-In: 146.86(-) (PL 186.2)****Don Bruschi, K7UN****PO Box 5130****Salem, OR 97304-0130****Phone: 503-371-8070****k7un@arrl.net****http://www.w7sra.com****7 March 2009****Electronics Show****Mike and Key ARC****West. Washington Fairgrounds****Pavilion Exhibition Hall****Puyallup, Washington****Michael Dinkelman N7WA****22222 148th Avenue SE****Kent, WA 98042****253-631-3756****mwdink@eskimo.com****www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm****5 - 7 June 2009****SEA-PAC****NW DIV. ARRL CONVENTION****Seaside Convention Center****Seaside Oregon****www.seapac.org****Happy January Birthday**

1 Mary Horscroft		21 Lynn Hurd	WB7UNU
1 Mary Jane Hogin	KD7CKN	22 Jo Orr	KA7MIE
1 Dinah Wells		23 Phillip Ricker	WB7ARB
1 Natalie Mealer	WA6QUM	23 Margie Simmons	KE7HUR
6 Mark Morrissey	KE7KEI	24 Jack Smithson	KA7HOJ
6 Will Sheffield	N7THL	27 Marvel Noyes	KA7TZY
6 Arnold Jensen	W7DSA	30 Bradley Wells	KD7RTD
8 Rick Schouweiler	KA5OLH	30 "Rosy" Green	KD7PGH
8 Ted Geroux	KE7BTY		
8 Bob Scott	W7AFR		
14 Peter M Jordan	W7KTM		
16 Herb Richardson	KB7SFJ		
17 Nick Krochmal			
18 George Brennfleck	W7ILS		

Have we missed your birthday?
Likely we do not have your correct
date in our database.

WAS WATCH

We have forty-eight verified contacts and need two for Worked All States for W7OTV. Our needed states are Arkansas and New Jersey.

Your business advertising in *THE OSCILLATOR* is seen each month by more than 200 members read *THE OSCILLATOR*.

To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact **Maureen O'Rourke** at 503.591.9641. There is currently limited space available.

**J. Steven Sanders****Certified General Appraiser****Sanders Appraisal, PC****503-320-4100****jss10@verizon.net****Orencia Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124****Fax: 503-547-8200**

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Tigard, Oregon 97223

ELMERS, from Page 1

Mike is continuing to work on (prod) Ron to upgrade his Morse Code (CW) skills. Ron still encourages (pesters) Mike to work modes other than CW. They have helped each other develop their stations and trouble-shoot thorny problems that amateurs face. Ron's engineering expertise and practical experience assisted in solving mechanical design/layout/antenna problems. Mike's computer and electronics knowledge automated some of the office, logging, and QSL'ing tasks.

Working together, Amateur Radio Station KD7VIK has 240 volt electrical service and an HF amplifier, while the main station for K7CIE has installed and commissioned a 30-foot tower and a beam antenna. Probably the greatest benefit of this dual Elmering has been the free exchange of time, ideas and information which has helped improve their stations. Other hams and OTVARC club members have benefited as well with successful group contest operations sponsored at both K7CIE and KD7VIK stations.

Both of these hams will be sad when the DXCC "competition" is completed. Over the past two years, they often called or E-mailed each other to brag about stations they worked, QSL cards for new countries they have received, and where the present country count stands. They'll find new ways to compete for another piece of paper or certificate, in a friendly race. Maybe - WAZ (Worked All Zones), IOTW (Islands of the World), or 5-band WAS (Worked All States). We'll just have to wait and see what comes up next.

Update: Early in December Mike K7CIE jumped from 99 to 103 countries confirmed. Ron KD7VIK stalled at 96 confirmed countries. As this is written before Christmas, Ron received his 101st QSL confirmation in the mail.

Editors Note: By it's very nature, Amateur Radio is not a solitary undertaking. It takes more than one station to communicate and many others to design, build and maintain our Ham Radio systems. If you are reading this you are likely a member of OTVARC and have made a serious commitment to improving your Amateur Radio knowledge and experience, whatever your class of license. Seek out someone with whom you can share your expertise. In return you are sure to receive many times what you give. We are much stronger working together, and as a Club, than we are as individuals. It is always more fun!

LOOK BACK AT MORE THAN A DECADE OF VE TESTING

The most recent incarnation of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club's Volunteer Examiner Program has been going for eleven years now. Al KO7B (now W7AKR), ran the program earlier but there was a hiatus after he moved out of the area. OTVARC president Betty N7REX, decided the VE program was a must-do for the club. I accepted her appointment to lead the program. On September 28, 1997 we held our first session at the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue facility on Blanton Street in Aloha with examiners Edith KA7MIF, Bob K7QXG, Geno K7GY, Ron K7GX (SK), and Dale K7FW. In February 2000 we moved to our current location at Ronler Acres Fire Station and in that year we took over running the *Sea-Pac* VE session.

Initially, we ran sessions every other month. In 2005, Kevin KE7VIN, began running alternate months. Shortly, he had to return to Arizona for a job — but I kept up the monthly schedule. Will N7THL, has stepped in as session manager when needed since then.

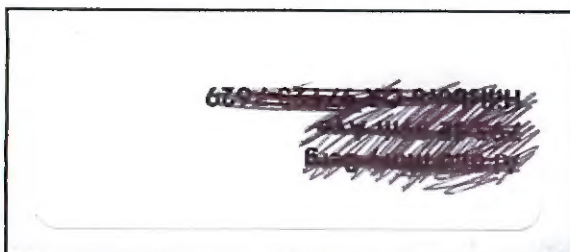
We have seen some big changes during this time. In 2000, the licensing structure was simplified. No new Novice or Advanced licenses were to be issued, and the code speed was dropped to 5 WPM for all classes. We went from three versions of code tests and five written tests down to one code test and three written tests. A flood resulted. At the peak of the deluge we once crammed 32 applicants plus seven or eight examiners into our little room. We've had larger crowds, but never that many at one sitting. I rented extra tables and chairs.

In 2007 the Morse code requirement was dropped entirely and the average size of our sessions jumped from six or seven to twenty-five or thirty for about six months before it finally tapered off. It has been somewhat unpredictable since then ranging from six to forty-one applicants, the latter being our largest session ever except *Sea-Pac*, which once hit forty-four. Overall, apart from occasional surges of interest, we have held steady at an average of 12 applicants at our regular sessions in Hillsboro.

Continued on Page 3

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CLUB MEETING
JANUARY 14TH



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Editor: Everett W6ABM w6abm@arrl.net

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27th Year

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